



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/520,943	03/08/2000	ANDREW E FANO	AND1P525	1143

29838 7590 11/18/2003

OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY, LLP (ACCENTURE)
PLAZA VII, SUITE 3300
45 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-1609

EXAMINER

VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3623

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/520,943

Applicant(s)

FANO ET AL.

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a Final rejection in response to communications received 09/11/03. Claims 1-20 have been canceled. Claims 21-49 have been added. Claims 21-49 are now pending in this application.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment to the specification is sufficient to overcome the specification objections set forth in the previous office action.
3. The cancellation of claims 19 and 20 is sufficient to overcome the 35 USC § 101 rejections and 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, rejections set forth in the previous office action.
4. Applicant's amendment to the drawings is sufficient to overcome the drawing objections set forth in the previous office action.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 21 is objected to because it contains a syntax error. The phrase in step (b) of "goals based on upon the information" should more appropriately be --goals based on the information-- and has been construed as such for examination purposes. Correction is required.
6. Claim 49 is objected to because it contains a syntax error. The phrase in step (b) of "the selected option by the adjusting the indicia of desirability" should more appropriately be --the selected option by the adjusting of the indicia of desirability--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 3623

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 22-42 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

8. Claims 22-42 all are dependent claims that recite dependency on canceled claims. For example, claim 22 recites "The method of claim 1", claim 30 recites "The method of claim 9", etc. For examination purposes, all claims that recite claim 1 as the parent claim have been construed as dependant on claim 21, claims 29 and 33 are construed as dependant on claim 28, claims 30 and 36 on claim 29, claims 31, 34, 35, 38, and 39 on claim 30, claim 32 on claim 31, and claim 40 on claim 39. Correction is required.

9. Claim 43-49 recite limitations that have insufficient antecedent basis in parent claim 21 on which each depends. Therefore, claims 43-49 have been construed as dependant on claim 41 for examination purposes. Appropriate correction is required.

10. Due to the dependency issues discussed above, the rejections set forth below are based on the best understanding of the claimed invention by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application

Art Unit: 3623

being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

12. Claims 21-27 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (U.S. 6,021,397).

13. As per claim 21, Jones et al. teaches a method for enabling users to make decisions by modeling tradeoffs between personal goals comprising:

(a) receiving information from a user including information related to cash flow of a user (See column 5, lines 50-67, wherein personal information about the user is obtained included information about the user's cash flow);

(b) presenting to the user a plurality of goals based on the information provided from the user (See column 2, lines 48-64, column 3, lines 40-67, column 4, lines 10-34, column 5, lines 50-67, column 6, lines 3-40 and 50-58, column 7, lines 63-67, and column 8, lines 1-20, wherein the plurality of goals are presented to the user. These goals include savings goals, retirement goals, financial plans (buying a house, sending a child to school), etc.);

(c) allowing the user to select at least one goal from a plurality of goals, wherein each of the selected goals corresponds to a user-desired disbursement for attainment of the selected goal (See column 2, lines 48-64, column 3, lines 40-67, column 5, lines 50-67, column 6, lines 3-40 and 50-58, column 7, lines 63-67, and column 8, lines 1-20, wherein the user can select at least one goal and iteratively adjust preferences related to the goals);

Art Unit: 3623

(d) presenting to the user a plurality of the user preferences (See column 4, lines 24-34, and column 6, lines 7-12, 20-27, and 50-58, wherein the user is presented preferences);

(e) allowing the user to make an adjustment to user preferences related to one of the goals (See column 2, lines 48-64, column 3, lines 40-67, column 5, lines 50-67, column 6, lines 3-40 and 50-58, column 7, lines 63-67, and column 8, lines 1-20, wherein the user can iteratively adjust preferences related to the goals, such as the savings rate, ages of retirement, quality of retirement, etc. The goal is the item and the preferences its settings);

(f) determining an impact of the adjustment on attaining the remaining goals (See column 2, lines 48-64, column 3, lines 40-67, column 5, lines 50-67, column 6, lines 3-40 and 50-58, column 7, lines 63-67, and column 8, lines 1-20, wherein the system analyzes the effects of the changes on the other goals and preferences in the portfolio);

(g) presenting to the user the impact of the adjustment on attaining the goals (See at least column 2, lines 48-64, column 3, lines 40-67, column 5, lines 50-67, column 6, lines 3-40 and 50-58, column 7, lines 63-67, and column 8, lines 1-20, wherein the user can see the effects of the iterative changes).

14. As per claim 22, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein the goals are financial goals (See column 4, lines 10-34, and column 6, lines 13-40 and 50-58, wherein the goals include at least home, monthly allowances and savings, children's education, retirement, etc.).

15. As per claim 23, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein the goals include expenditures for at least one of a home, a vehicle, planned monthly allowance and

Art Unit: 3623

savings, planned furniture expenses, planned appliance purchases, a vacations, children's education, and retirement home (See column 4, lines 10-34, and column 6, lines 13-40 and 50-58, wherein the goals include at least home, monthly allowances and savings, children's education, retirement, etc.).

16. As per claim 24, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

(a) presenting to the user an adjustable priority indicia for adjusting preferences related to the selected goal, wherein the priority indicia adjusts the level of priority of achieving the selected goal (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein the user is presented adjustable parameters that indicate the priorities related to a goal of the user);

(b) allowing the user to make an adjustment to the priority indicia (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein these priority parameters can be adjusted by the user);

(c) adjusting the level of priority of achieving the selected goal responsive to the user's adjustment of the priority indicia (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein the profile and display are adjusted).

17. As per claim 25, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

(a) presenting to the user an adjustable time indicia for the selected goal (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein the user is presented adjustable parameters that indicate the time related to a goal of the user);

(b) allowing the user to make an adjustment to the time indicia (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein these parameters can be adjusted by the user);

Art Unit: 3623

(c) adjusting the amount of time expected for achieving the selected goal responsive to the user's adjustment of the time indicia (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein the profile and display are adjusted).

18. As per claim 26, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

(a) presenting to the user an adjustable quality indicia for the selected goal (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein the user is presented adjustable parameters that indicate the quality related to a goal of the user);

(b) allowing the user to make an adjustment to the quality indicia (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein these parameters can be adjusted by the user);

(c) adjusting the quality of the selected goal responsive to the user's adjustment of the quality indicia (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein the profile and display are adjusted).

19. As per claim 27, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

(a) presenting to the user an adjustable indicia of favoritism between time and quality for the selected goal (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein the user is presented adjustable parameters that indicate the relationship between time and quality related to a goal of the user);

(b) allowing the user to make an adjustment to the favoritism indicia (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein these parameters can be adjusted by the user);

Art Unit: 3623

(c) adjusting the favoritism between time and quality of the selected goal responsive to the user's adjustment of the favoritism indicia (See column 4, lines 5-35, and column 6, lines 3-35, wherein the profile and display are adjusted).

20. As per claim 37, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein the goals include at least one of a home, a vehicle, planned monthly allowance and savings, planned future expenses, planned appliance purchases, a vacation, children's education, and retirement home (See column 4, lines 10-34, and column 6, lines 13-40 and 50-58, wherein the goals include at least home, monthly allowances and savings, children's education, retirement, etc.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 28-36 and 38-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. (U.S. 6,021,397).

22. As per claim 28, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:
creating a user profile for facilitating targeted presentation based on the user information, user goals and adjusted preferences (See at least column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a user profile is created for a user which stores the options and products available to the user, the user information, the goal of the user, and the stored preferences of the user in attaining the goal).

However, Jones et al. does not expressly disclose targeted advertising based on the user profile.

Jones et al. discloses a tool that displays to a user options (mutual funds, 401(k) programs, etc.) available to user when planning for achievement of a goal and stores these available options in the profile of the user along with the goal and selections of the user. Using the profile of a user for marketing purposes in order increase the accuracy of presenting and tailoring ads to users to increase sales is old and well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to present tailored advertisements to the user with a stored profile of Jones et al. in order to increase the accuracy of displaying ads to users to which the options of the ad are available. Jones et al. discusses the importance of presenting a user with products attainable to the user in column 4, lines 7-15.

23. As per claim 29, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

creating at least one offering targeted to the user profile for achieving the goal (See at least column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a targeted offering or presentation is provided to the user based on the user's profile, the goal specified, and the options available for the user. For example, the system gives the user a tailored suggestion, such as rebalancing the portfolio with different products, in order to achieve the goal).

24. As per claim 30, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

transmitting the at least one matched offering to the user (See at least column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a targeted offering or presentation is provided to the user based on the user's profile, the

Art Unit: 3623

goal specified, and the options available for the user. For example, the system gives the user a tailored suggestion, such as rebalancing the portfolio with different products, in order to achieve the goal. Furthermore, the matched offering of a 401(k) program is in the offering presented the user).

25. As per claim 31, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein the transmission of the matched offering to the user is done using a computer network (See at least figure 1, column 4, lines 60-67, column 5, lines 20-50, column 6, lines 40-50, and column 7, lines 13-30 and 50-60, wherein the transmission is done using a computer network).

26. As per claim 32, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein the network is the Internet (See at least figure 1, column 4, lines 60-67, column 5, lines 20-50, and column 7, lines 13-30 and 50-60, wherein the network is the Internet).

27. As per claim 33, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

using the user profile information as market intelligence (See at least figures 6 and 7m column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, column 7, lines 5-10, column 10, lines 54-67, and column 13, lines 44-50, column 16, lines 10-25, wherein a profile is maintained for the user and this profile is used with market knowledge (historical information, current information, etc.) to simulate the portfolio of the user).

28. As per claim 34, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein the matched offering is a financial instrument (See at least column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a targeted offering or presentation is provided to the user based on the user's profile, the goal specified, and the options available for the user. For example, the system gives the user a tailored suggestion, such as rebalancing

Art Unit: 3623

the portfolio with different financial products, in order to achieve the goal. Furthermore, the matched offering of a 401(k) program is in the offering presented the user).

29. As per claim 35, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

providing a user a matched offering and allowing a user to change a preference related to attaining one or more of the goals (See at least column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a targeted offering or presentation is provided to the user based on the user's profile, the goal specified, and the options available for the user. For example, the system gives the user a tailored suggestion, such as rebalancing the portfolio with different products, in order to achieve the goal. Furthermore, the matched offering of a 401(k) program is in the offering presented the user. See also at least column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, column 7, lines 5-10, and column 10, lines 54-67, wherein the user is allowed to change preferences in the portfolio related to attaining a goal). However, Jones et al. does not expressly disclose notifying at least one provider of the matched offering when the user changes these preferences.

Jones et al. teaches a tool wherein the user can edit the preferences and options stored in his/her portfolio, said portfolio representing a plan to achieve a goal or goals. These preferences and options are mutual funds, IRA's, 401(k) programs, etc. which are available to the user and provided via an employer, for example. It is old and well known that employees enroll in the programs for these products, which are supplied by a provider, and that employees have the ability to un-enroll in products. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to notify a provider of the product of Jones et al. (such as a mutual fund) if a user is no

Art Unit: 3623

longer utilizing said product in order to more efficiently communicate with providers so that they have accurate information about who is and who is not using their products.

30. As per claim 36, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein the offering includes at least one of a product and a service (See at least column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein an offering for the portfolio is presented to the user based on the user's profile, the goal specified, and the options available for the user. For example, the system gives the user a tailored suggestion, such as rebalancing the portfolio with different products, in order to achieve the goal. Furthermore, the matched offering of a 401(k) program is in the offering presented the user).

31. As per claim 38, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein the matched offering with different financial products is displayed to the user (See at least column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a targeted offering or presentation is provided to the user based on the user's profile, the goal specified, and the options available for the user. For example, the system gives the user a tailored suggestion, such as rebalancing the portfolio with different products, in order to achieve the goal. Furthermore, the matched offering of a 401(k) program is in the offering presented the user). However, Jones et al. does not expressly disclose that this display is a banner advertisement.

Jones et al. discloses a tool that displays to a user options (mutual funds, 401(k) programs, etc.) available to user when planning for achievement of a goal and stores these available options in the profile of the user along with the goal and selections of the user. Using the profile of a user for marketing purposes in order increase the accuracy of

Art Unit: 3623

presenting and tailoring ads to users to increase sales is old and well known in the art. Furthermore, banner ads are a well known ad type in the network marketing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to present tailored advertisements using banner ads to the user of Jones et al. in order to increase the accuracy of displaying ads to users to which the options of the ad are available. Jones et al. discusses the importance of presenting a user with products attainable to the user in column 4, lines 7-15.

32. As per claim 39, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

storing the matched offering in a database (See at least figure 1 and column 5, lines 34-41, which discusses the database).

33. As per claim 40, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

(a) providing information about the matched offering (See at least column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a targeted offering or presentation is provided to the user based on the user's profile, the goal specified, and the options available for the user. For example, the system gives the user a tailored suggestion, such as rebalancing the portfolio with different products, in order to achieve the goal).

However, while Jones et al. discloses a third party, network accessible tool for providing the information, Jones et al. does not expressly disclose charging a fee for its use.

Jones et al. discloses a third party, network accessible tool, called AdviceServer, for providing the information about financial and goal oriented offerings. Internet-based companies charging fees for membership and services of their websites is well known in

Art Unit: 3623

the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to charge a fee for use of the network-based tool of Jones et al. in order to increase the profitability of the tool by gaining fees for service from the user.

34. As per claim 41, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein each of the goals has a range of options, further comprising:

(a) displaying at least one provided option corresponding to a selected goal (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein at least one option provided the user by the user's company is displayed to the user with respect to a goal of a user (such as retirement savings));

(b) allowing the user to select the provided option (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a user can select options to add to the portfolio used to attain the goal of the user);

(c) allowing the user to select at least one option provided by the company (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a user can select options to add to the portfolio used to attain the goal of the user, these options provided by his/her company); and

(d) allowing the user to add the selected option to the range of options for the goal (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a user can select options to add to the portfolio of assorted other options used to attain the goal of the user. These options available and the chosen options are stored with the user's profile).

However, Jones et al. does not expressly disclose displaying at least one provider or allowing the user to select the provider of the provided option.

Art Unit: 3623

Jones et al. discloses a system that displays to a user available options (mutual funds, 401(k) programs, etc.) and allows the user to select the options he/she wants in an effort to obtain a goal of the user (for example, retirement income). The system stores these available options in the profile of the user. Jones et al. further discusses in column 6, lines 60-65, that a new mutual fund may be added to the user's list of options, thus showing the availability of different options within the same product. It is old and well known in the art that mutual funds, 401(k) programs, and health benefits are provided to employees of a company, the employees being presented with multiple providers and having the ability to choose between the different providers as to what options work best for them (for example, an employee may be offered health insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, etc. and he/she chooses the provider) and it is also well known that multiple companies compete to provide products such as mutual funds, etc. (or in other words mutual funds are available through a provider). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include presenting the providers that provide the options of Jones et al. (such as for the different mutual funds discussed) in order to increase the accuracy of planning for the goals of the user by accurately presenting all the options available to the user.

35. As per claim 42, Jones et al. discloses a method wherein each option has a range of features, further comprising:

(a) displaying the range of options for a goal (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein at least one option provided the user by the user's company is displayed to the user with respect to a goal of a user (such as retirement savings));

Art Unit: 3623

(b) allowing the user to select one of the options based on the adjusted preference (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a user can select options to add to the portfolio used to attain the goal of the user);

(c) allowing the user to select at least one option provided by the company (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a user can select options to add to the portfolio used to attain the goal of the user, these options provided by his/her company)

(f) allowing the user to select at least one feature provided by the selected option (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 15-45, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein the user is presented with features such as risk tolerance, savings rates, etc. for the options);

(g) allowing the user to add the selected feature to the range of features corresponding to the selected option (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a user can select features of options and options to add to the portfolio of assorted other features and options used to attain the goal of the user. These features and options available and those chosen are stored with the user's profile).

However, Jones et al. does not expressly disclose providers of the provided options, displaying at least one provider of the provided options, or allowing the user to select a provider of the provided options.

Jones et al. discloses a system that displays to a user available options (mutual funds, 401(k) programs, etc.) and allows the user to select the options and features he/she

Art Unit: 3623

wants in an effort to obtain a goal. The system stores these available options in the profile of the user. Jones et al. further discusses in column 6, lines 60-65, that a new mutual fund may be added to the user's list of options, thus showing the availability of different options within the same product. It is old and well known in the art that mutual funds, 401(k) programs, and health benefits are provided to employees of a company, the employees being presented with multiple providers and having the ability to choose between the different providers as to what options work best for them (for example, an employee may be offered health insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, etc. and he/she chooses) and it is also well known that multiple companies compete to provide products such as mutual funds, etc. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include presenting the providers that provide the options of Jones et al. (such as for the different mutual funds discussed) and allowing the user to select a provider in order to increase the accuracy of planning for the goals of the user by accurately presenting all the options available to the user. See column 4, lines 5-15, which discusses the importance of presenting a user with his/her available options.

36. As per claim 43, Jones et al. teaches a method wherein the selected provided option is selected from a list of provided options (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a user can select options to add to the portfolio used to attain the goal of the user, these options provided by his/her company). However, Jones et al. does not expressly disclose the provider for the provided options listed.

Jones et al. discloses a system that displays to a user financial options (mutual funds, 401(k) programs, etc.) provided the user and allows the user to select the options he/she wants in an effort to obtain a goal of the user (for example, retirement income). Jones et al. further discusses in column 6, lines 60-65, that a new mutual fund may be added to the user's list of options, thus showing the availability of different mutual fund options. It is old and well known in the art that mutual funds, 401(k) programs, and health benefits are provided to employees of a company, the employees being presented with multiple providers and having the ability to choose between the different providers as to what options work best for them (for example, an employee may be offered health insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, etc. and he/she chooses) and it is also well known that multiple companies compete to provide products such as mutual funds, etc. (or in other words mutual funds are available through a provider). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include presenting the providers that provide the options of Jones et al. (such as for the different mutual funds discussed) in order to increase the accuracy of planning for the goals of the user by accurately presenting all the options available to the user.

37. As per claim 44, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

(a) presenting to the user at least one feature (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 15-45, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein the user is presented with features such as risk tolerance, savings rates, etc.);

(b) allowing the user to select at least one of the features for the selected option (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 15-45, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein the user sets these features based on the selected options).

Art Unit: 3623

38. As per claim 45, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

utilizing the network to display information relating to the provided option (See at least figure 1, column 4, lines 60-67, column 5, lines 20-50, column 6, lines 2-30 and 40-50, and column 7, lines 13-30 and 50-60, wherein the transmission and display of information is done using a computer network). However, Jones et al. does not expressly disclose displaying the provider of the option.

Jones et al. discloses a system that displays to a user financial options (mutual funds, 401(k) programs, etc.) provided the user by the company for which the user works and allows the user to select the options he/she wants. Jones et al. further discusses in column 6, lines 60-65, that a new mutual fund may be added to the user's list of options, thus showing the availability of different mutual fund options. It is old and well known in the art that mutual funds, 401(k) programs, and health benefits are provided to employees, the employees being presented with multiple providers and having the ability to choose between the different providers as to what options work best for them (for example, an employee may be offered health insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, etc. and he/she chooses) and it is also well known that multiple companies provide products such as mutual funds, etc. (or in other words mutual funds are available through a provider). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include presenting the providers that provide the options of Jones et al. (such as for the different mutual funds discussed) in order to increase the accuracy of planning for the goals of the user by accurately presenting all the options available to the user. See column 4, lines 5-15.

39. As per claim 46, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

Art Unit: 3623

receiving from the user a replacement schedule for replacing the goal (See column 6, lines 7-13, 15-45, and 60-65, which discloses a substitute timetable for switching the goal plan).

40. As per claim 47, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

(a) presenting the user at least one option provided the user (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein at least one option provided the user by the user's company is displayed to the user with respect to a goal of a user (such as retirement savings));

(b) allowing the user to select a provided option and take the impact of said option into account on the goal (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 20-37, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein a user can select options to add to the portfolio used to attain the goal of the user. These options are used when simulating the situation of the user).

However, Jones et al. does not expressly disclose that this provided option is insurance and that the insurance insures the goal.

Jones et al. discloses a tool that takes into account a user's cash flow when planning for a goal. It is well known that insurance is a required expense that needs to be accounted for when accurately analyzing a person's cash flow. Jones et al. also discusses goals like buying a house, such goals requiring the expense of insurance. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include insurance options and the cost of the selection of insurance in the cash flow picture of the user of Jones et al. in order to more accurately plan for a user's goals by accurately encompassing all of the financial obligations of a user.

Art Unit: 3623

41. As per claim 48, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

displaying features of the selected option (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 15-45, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein the user is presented with features such as risk tolerance, savings rates, etc.).

42. As per claim 49, Jones et al. teaches a method further comprising:

(a) presenting to the user an indicia of desirability for the selected option (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 15-45, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein the program simulates the selected options to diagnose the portfolio versus the goal. The user is presented with an indication of the advantages of the selected options of the portfolio); and

(b) allowing the user to adjust the desirability for the selected option to reflect the user's desire for obtaining the selected option by the adjusting of the indicia of desirability (See column 5, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 7-13, 15-45, and 60-65, and column 7, lines 5-10, wherein the user is allowed to adjust the desirability to the user for the selected option).

Response to Arguments

43. Applicant's arguments with response to the rejections based on Jones et al. (U.S. 6,021,397) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the remarks, Applicant argues that Jones et al. does not teach or suggest determining the impact that pursuing a goal has on the user's other goals (i.e. making tradeoffs between various personal and financial goals).

In response to the Applicant's argument, Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner asserts that Jones et al. does teach this idea when it discusses the multiple goals

Art Unit: 3623

of one's life (such as retirement age, purchasing a home, sending a child to college, money saving and money investing plans, etc.) being accounted for in the system and allowing the user to set ages, amounts, etc. of what is preferred, as stated in column 4, lines 7-33, column 5, lines 50-67, column 6, lines 7-34 and 40-45. The system runs these preferences and goals and informs the user as to his/her ability to meet the goals with the current settings. Then, through an iterative process, the user can change settings and see the outcome of these changes. See also column 10, lines 60-66, which discusses further intermediate goals of a user.

Conclusion

44. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

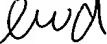
Art Unit: 3623

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (703) 305-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-

1113.



bvd

November 13, 2003

Susanna Diaz
Susanna Diaz
Primary Examiner
AU-3623